



November 2006

Paddlers Log On Before Heading Out

Jacksonville, FL (October 15, 2006) - An innovative partnership has resulted in an on-line guide for paddling trails in the salt marsh, estuarine, and sea island ecosystems of four rivers located in the Timucuan Trails State and National Parks.



The logo (and website) was created by Jody Hetchka, owner of *Kayak Amelia*, a local outfitter in Jacksonville, and one of the partners for this project.

Timucuan Trails State and National Parks is a ground breaking formal partnership created in 1999 between federal, state, city, private and corporate landowners in area that provides visitors with seamless experiences across adjoining management areas. NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program staff suggested the idea of a more comprehensive paddling guide, after working with the partnership to prepare information for the *Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail* (www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/paddling/saltwater.htm). RTCA worked with the partners to create the layout, text, and maps for the guide. For more information, please contact Charlotte Gillis, Landscape Architect, at charlotte_gillis@nps.gov or 404- 562- 3175.

Suburban Washington Gains a 13- mile Addition to their Trail System



La Plata, MD (August 21, 2006) –The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program transferred, at no cost, a 13.39- mile (160.01- acre) abandoned railroad corridor to Charles County for public park and recreation use. Valued at just over \$3,060,000, Charles County will develop the corridor as a walking and bicycling trail. Since 1918, the rail line served the needs of the Naval Surface Warfare Center on the Potomac River near Indian Head and traverses the western half of the County.

This rail corridor had been identified by the County as a critical addition in their Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan to provide a continuous pedestrian pathway between the center of the County and the Potomac River. For over 10 years Charles County had been working with the NPS FLP program and the US General Services Administration to ensure the acquisition of this corridor for a public trail. The transfer was negotiated by NPS FLP staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, FLP Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404- 562- 3175.

Interpretative Trail Boosts National Historic District

South Cle Elum, WA (November 2006) A recent Open House at the South Cle Elum Railroad Depot celebrated the opening of a half- mile interpretive trail with 18 stations that explain the story behind this National Historic District. The wheelchair- accessible Rail Yard Interpretive Trail includes the South Cle Elum Depot, reopened this summer after a seven- year, \$1 million rehabilitation. The trail also links directly to the former Milwaukee Railroad right of way, now a cross- state Rail- Trail that is the central feature of the Iron Horse State Park. The interpretive trail project was led by the Cascade Rail Foundation, with additional funding provided by private donors, the Union Pacific Foundation, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, and a National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program grant. For more information, see www.milwelectric.org, or contact Sue Abbott at sue_abbott@nps.gov or 206- 220- 4116.



Popular Beachfront Receives Grant for Improvements



Hammonasset Beach State Park, CT (October 2006) - Connecticut's largest shoreline park offers over 2 miles of sandy beach and a .75- mile boardwalk paralleling the beach. With \$1.9 million in LWCF assistance, the State will construct a visitor's complex that will become the focal point of the beach area for the park. Serving over 1.5 million visitors yearly, the State intends to construct a bathhouse, welcome center, and picnic pavilion to support visitor needs. The construction of the visitor complex will be located on the footprint of the previous 40+ year old bathhouse.

For more information, please contact Jean Sokolowski, LWCF Project Manager, at jean_sokolowski@nps.gov or 215- 597- 1158.

Neighbors Cheer Trail Completion

Milwaukee, WI (September 2006) – A new soft- surfaced pedestrian trail paralleling the Milwaukee River was officially opened to enthusiastic response. The 1.5 mile walking trail connects Caesar's Park with the Frederick Law Olmstead designed Riverside Park and forms a loop to the Beer Line Trail. The trail meanders from forested riparian area abundant with wildlife, but an easy climb out of the valley opens into densely populated historic residential and business districts and the county- wide Oak Leaf Trail.



The trail was enhanced with sapling plantings and Native American- inspired turtle sculptures that recognize major sponsors. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program was one of those sponsors, providing trail planning technical assistance to Milwaukee County and the River Revitalization Foundation. Other key partners include: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Coastal Management Program, Americorps, Groundwork Milwaukee, Milwaukee County Parks, Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, United Water's Internship Program, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, private landowners, and many other foundations and businesses. For more information, please contact Angie Tornes, Conservation and Recreation Planner, RTCA, at angie_tornes@nps.gov or 414- 297- 3605.



Creating a Recreation Destination

Dauphin County, PA (October 2006) - After acquiring 26 acres of agricultural land adjacent to a school district property, Lower Swatara Township was certain about one thing, the Township needed a state- of- the- art recreational facility for area residents and visitors. As planning progressed, Township officials visualized the site's potential. With \$200,000 in LWCF assistance, eight soccer fields will be developed to accommodate the area's soccer enthusiasts, a picnic pavilion and tot lot will be added, along with a walking path and assorted other improvements, to accommodate a wide variety of recreational pursuits and to make Messick Park a true destination. For more information, please contact Mary Vavra, LWCF Project Manager, at mary_vavra@nps.gov or 215- 597- 9175.

Upcoming Conferences: The NPS maintains a list of upcoming recreation and conservation related conferences, meetings, and training events on our website at: http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/news&events/ne_conferences.htm

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of National Park Service recreation and conservation programs. This e-mail newsletter may be copied or redirected; our staff would be pleased to assist your editor in adapting any of these stories for your publication. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please call (202) 354-6900 or e-mail sally_grate@nps.gov. All photos courtesy NPS, except where noted.